

THE PRESIDENT'S INTELLIGENCE CHECKLIST

ISSUED BY THE
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY



20 APRIL 1963
~~TOP SECRET~~

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1. Laos

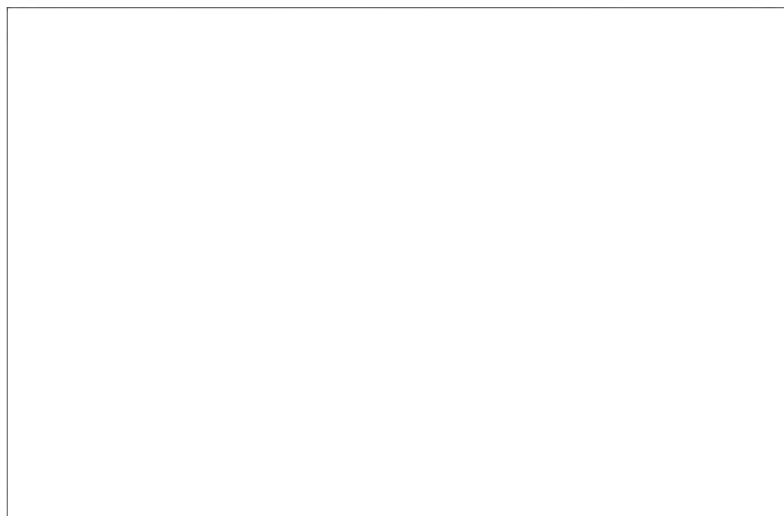
a. Communist control of the Plaine des Jarres appears virtually complete.

b. Kong Le has abandoned the Plaine des Jarres airstrip and moved his command post north to the Muong Kheung-Ban Song Hac area. He has reserve armor and artillery there but is handicapped by a shortage of ammunition and POL.

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2. Cuba

a. Photography of 17, 18, and 19 April is of limited value because of unfavorable weather and technical factors. As best it can be interpreted at this time, however, it reveals no significant changes recently at the Soviet encampments.



d. Castro's proposed visit to the USSR is getting an exceptionally big buildup in Moscow. Alexi Adzhubei gave a 10 minute speech on Moscow radio on 18 April promising Castro a warm welcome.



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3. Ecuador

a. A coup against President Arosemena is again reported to be in the offing.

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4. West Germany

a. Adenauer may be forced into a showdown next week on the nomination of his successor.

b. CDU press chief Ackermann has told our embassy in Bonn that Christian Democrat and Christian Socialist deputies will formally propose Erhard's selection next Tuesday. Ackermann said that in June Erhard would be introduced to President Kennedy as the next Chancellor.

c. Ambassador Dowling comments that Adenauer's ability to influence his party's decision should not be sold short, but his room for maneuver is rapidly narrowing.

5.

Yemen

a. There is still no word on Yemen's agreement to the disengagement plan.

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NOTES

- A. USSR Soviet preliminary reports of economic results during the first quarter of 1963 claim industry has been adversely affected by an "unprecedentedly severe winter." US weather analysis supports this, but the lower production rates also appear to be a continuation of the general Soviet economic slowdown during the past two years.
- B. Communist China Although there was some improvement in mainland food production last year, [redacted]
[redacted]
sections of Kwangtung province are experiencing famine conditions. [redacted]
- C. Jordan Today's parliamentary vote of confidence on the Rifai government is expected to be a close one. Our embassy believes that Rifai has an assured majority, but warns that a too thin margin of victory might bring his resignation.
- D. Honduras Violence may occur during the ruling Liberal Party's presidential nominating convention which opens in Tegucigalpa today. President Villeda Morales is trying to steer the nomination away from Modesto Rodas Alvarado, who appears to control most of the delegates. Several thousand of Rodas Alvarado's followers are expected to arrive in Tegucigalpa this weekend.

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E. Guatemala [redacted]

some rebel activity in the northeastern sector of the country, where Castro-supported guerrillas have operated in the past. Air and ground forces were sent to the area on 18 April. Guatemalan Communists [redacted] have concluded that Peralta's anti-subversive decrees have left them no alternative but armed struggle. [redacted]

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G. France Paris has indicated that a French nuclear test site in the Pacific will be chosen before the end of 1963. The French announced on 17 April that no revisions of the military clauses of the Evian accord are foreseen, thus suggesting that further underground tests in the Sahara may be in prospect.

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J. Indonesian Communists The Yugoslav ambassador in Djakarta told our embassy yesterday that Peiping has taken control of the Indonesian Communist party (PKI) away from the USSR. Russia's ambassador confided to the Yugoslav that, as a result, Moscow no longer is urging the inclusion of the PKI in the Indonesian cabinet.

DOCUMENT OF INTEREST

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